

long speaking tour in Burma. The NLD won Burma's last democratic election in 1990, however, Burma's military regime has refused to honor the election results. I'm outraged to learn that Ms. Suu Kyi may have been seriously injured and many of her supporters killed.

I want to express my solidarity with the peoples of Burma and their struggle for democracy. As Ronald Reagan once said, "Regimes planted by bayonets do not take root". Now is the time for the United States to express our support for freedom in Burma.

Mr. Speaker, we should immediately move to increase pressure against this despicable regime.

A TRIBUTE TO DENNIS COOPER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Dennis Cooper in recognition of his outstanding accomplishment in this year's 75th Precinct Council Spelling Bee competition.

Dennis is currently in the fifth grade at P.S. 306 in Brooklyn, New York. He received a third place award in the spelling bee.

Mr. Speaker, Dennis Cooper has demonstrated that he is committed to his academic studies and is an excellent speller. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring him and his accomplishment.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MELANIE NEWLAND

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Melanie Newland has devoted herself to serving others through her membership in the Girl Scouts; and

Whereas, Melanie Newland has shared her time and talent with the community in which she resides; and

Whereas, Melanie Newland has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Melanie Newland must be commended for the hard work and dedication she put forth in earning the Girl Scout Gold Award;

Therefore, I join with the Girl Scouts, the residents of Kingston and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Melanie Newland as she receives the Girl Scout Gold Award.

COMMENDING BULGARIA

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Res-

olution 177 commending the men and women of our Armed Forces, our leaders and our allies for the courage and dedication displayed during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq. Since that fateful day in September 2001 we have been a Nation at war. In one of the few instances in our history when our homeland was directly attacked, our President responded decisively by declaring a global war on terrorism.

That September night while the world watch in horror, the President directed the full power and might of the United States to bring the terrorists to justice and asked for our friends and allies to join us in the war against terrorists. Over 70 nations responded to his call to arms and one, the Republic of Bulgaria, has stood with us since that fateful day, sharing in the dangers and the determination to fight the global war on terrorism.

Since September 11, 2001 the Republic of Bulgaria has acted firmly and convincingly as a friend and a de facto ally of the United States. In the world councils, Bulgaria has supported the NATO decisions to help patrol our skies after the September 11, 2001, and backed the European Union's Plan of Action in support of the United States. As an important non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, the Republic of Bulgaria has contributed constructively to all of the resolutions to bring the terrorist networks to justice. With Bulgaria's help, UN Resolutions 1386 and 1390 to bring pressure on the Al Qaeda and Taliban networks were quickly passed, thereby cutting off any material aid to the Taliban regime that was providing safe haven for Osama Bin Laden's terrorists and their training camps.

But the Republic of Bulgaria has done more than just support us in international councils. It has come to our assistance both at home and in the theaters of war. Within days of our warning to the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, Bulgaria granted our air forces blanket overflight rights for any United States aircraft participating in Operation Enduring Freedom. As the tempo of air operations increased, Bulgaria expanded its support to provide a base for our aircraft at Sarafovo. To assist other NATO nations which were providing troops to Operations in Afghanistan, Bulgaria volunteered a security company to the peacekeeping missions in Bosnia and Kosovo. And Bulgaria came to our direct assistance in Operation Enduring Freedom by providing a Decontamination Company to the International Security and Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. That force has been in place constructively working with U.S. and other allied forces since January 2002.

When the issue of Iraqi arose Bulgaria again stood with us both at the United Nations and at the battle front. Bulgaria took an active part in the passage of United Nations Resolution 1441 and has remained committed to the disarming of Iraq. When it became clear that Iraq had no intention of abiding by the United Nations Constraints, Bulgaria acted quickly to once again provide unfettered overflight, temporary basing and transit rights over its territory. Once again U.S. air forces soon found themselves a friendly base at Sarafovo. When the moment of decision arrived, Bulgaria stood steadfast with our determined President and sent a Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Protection Company to join our forces in Oper-

ation Iraqi Freedom and help protect them against Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

I wish to point out that the Republic of Bulgaria has conducted itself as a staunch and committed ally to the United States and its support should not go unnoticed by this great deliberative body. So I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing that the Republic of Bulgaria is one of the handful of nations that we are here today commending for having stood shoulder-to-shoulder with us in these two campaigns in the global war on terrorists.

TRIBUTE TO MARK WETZEL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I have the distinct privilege today to pay tribute to an extraordinary individual who is a regular visitor to my district. Mark Wetzel, a hitting coach from Omaha, Nebraska, travels to Western Colorado several times a year to work with the baseball team at Delta High School. He has done so for the past four years, and the results have been impressive. The Delta Panthers have raised the team batting average to .424, ranking in the top five in Colorado. Five players are hitting above .500, and confidence is high across the lineup.

Although Mark has played an important role in the team's success, he hasn't played the game since the age of 14. Disease forced him to quit playing, and for years Mark thought he didn't have anything to offer. When his son started playing the game, Mark eventually tried to impact his son's performance, and the results were readily apparent. That led to Mark helping the rest of the team, and before long word got out around Omaha about this hitting coach who could help improve performance when other coaches could not. Players he had never met, including some minor leaguers, began seeking out Mark for advice. Soon he was trading hitting philosophies with baseball legend Tony Gwynn and hitting coaches from the San Diego Padres.

What is so unique about Mark as a coach? Players and coaches say he has the ability to see things other coaches miss. One coach says that while he will concentrate on a problem and not find the cause, Mark will look at the end result and identify what is wrong.

Mark's ability to see things other coaches cannot is not the most unique thing about him, however. Mark is almost completely blind. The disease that caused him to quit playing baseball as a teenager also took away his vision. Yet he will tell you that losing his sight is the best thing that ever happened to him, because it taught him how to outwork others, stay positive, and be tenacious. It also has made him an inspiration to others, including the baseball team at Delta High School.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor Mark Wetzel today by telling his amazing story to this Congress. He is a true asset to the Panthers baseball team, and I congratulate him on his success, commend him for his inspiring example, and thank him for his contribution to the youth of Delta, Colorado.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF GOUGLERSVILLE FIRE COMPANY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Gougliersville Fire Company of Gougliersville, PA during its 75th anniversary celebration.

Without a fire company of its own, the people of Gougliersville, PA had to rely on companies located in neighboring communities. On March 8, 1928, citizens of Gougliersville attended a town meeting to discuss the formation of their own company. Over the next few months, the Gougliersville Fire Company was created. Members were recruited, officers were elected and the company constitution and by-laws were adopted. Finally, on September 4, 1928, the Berks County Court of Common Pleas granted a charter to the Company.

Over the next few years, the Company purchased a firehouse and its first apparatus. As time went on, the Company outgrew its original building and purchased a larger space to accommodate its increased membership and growing number of vehicles. The charter and by-laws of the Company were amended on August 3, 1950 to permit women to join. A Junior Brigade was started in 1972. As time has passed and the Company has changed, one thing that has not altered is the dedication of the firefighters to their duties.

For the past 75 years, the citizens of Gougliersville have been able to depend on the courageous men and women of Gougliersville Fire Company. I encourage my colleagues to join me in saluting Gougliersville Fire Company on reaching this milestone.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHNNY ALBINO

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to pay tribute to Mr. Johnny Albino, who will be honored this weekend as Yaucano del Año 2003. Mr. Albino is a renowned singer and songwriter who has recorded more than 300 records. He has traveled around the world sharing the gift of his music, in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Europe, as well as places as far away as Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Egypt and Israel, among others.

Mr. Albino was born in Yauco, Puerto Rico, on December 19, 1919. He was one of seven children. He went to school in Guayama, Puerto Rico, and planned to pursue law studies at the University of Puerto Rico, but in 1940 he enlisted in the United States Armed Forces. He served in the Corps of Engineers and studied to become a telegraph operator. During his tenure in the military, he also found a way to pursue his interest in music by forming a quartet and singing in U.S.O. sponsored events for servicemen. He served in the military for seven years, retiring as a Lieutenant.

When he returned to Yauco, he formed El Trio San Juan with Chago Alvarado and Ola

Martinez. They used to rehearse at a house on Tendal Street, on the way to Barrios Quebrada and Sierra Alta.

During his musical career as part of the famous Trio Los Panchos, with Alfredo Gil and Chucho Navarro, Albino traveled around the world seven times and had the opportunity to perform with luminaries such as Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr., Nat King Cole and Eydie Gorme. He also shared the stage with world-renowned figures like Xavier Cugat and Johnny Carson. He has been one of Puerto Rico's most talented musical ambassadors. He has been married for 43 years to Mrs. Maria Albino, who is also his manager.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Johnny Albino, an accomplished musician, for his achievements and for giving to the Hispanic community and to the world the gift of beautiful music.

CELEBRATING A LIFETIME OF ACHIEVEMENT AND THE LONGEVITY OF A LEWISTON LANDMARK

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you the wonderful story of Toni Orestis and her lifetime of achievement. Marois Restaurant, a Lewiston landmark since 1919, is closing on May 31, 2003. Started by Antoinette Marois Orestis' grandfather, carried on by her father Leon, and now run by Toni for more than 35 years, Marois is a first class restaurant that has anchored the downtown area of Lewiston for almost 85 years.

Marois started as a lunch counter business and expanded over the decades into the full service restaurant that it is today. During the Second World War, the restaurant was open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, feeding the shipbuilders and other workers involved in supporting the war effort from home. When Lewiston and Maine had a need, Marois was always there to meet it.

Toni started working in the restaurant at the age of thirteen. She and her three sisters worked for their grandfather and father all through the years. In fact, no one knows the restaurant business better than Toni. Throughout the past 65 years she has performed every role, from starting as a helper, to becoming a server, then cook, and now owner and executive. Toni and Marois are an example of downtown Lewiston at its finest.

Along with her remarkable work ethic and business acumen, Toni has also been there for so many people in the community. From baptisms to bar mitzvahs, from weddings to anniversaries, from office and retirement parties to Christmas parties, and yes for funerals too, Toni is always there with wonderful food and hospitality. So many people remember fondly the food, the dessert cart, the French and Greek menus, the formal and correct table service, but most of all, the genuine and generous personality that is Toni Marois Orestis. No one ever went away hungry and everyone went away with a smile.

Now Toni, at 78 years young, is finally retiring. When asked if she wanted to keep working, she said "Yes, but part time, maybe 35 or

40 hours a week". That is the true mark of dedication; a life lived purposefully and well. Mr. Speaker, please join me and the residents of Lewiston in congratulating Toni Orestis on her retirement and thanking her for all she has done for her community.

TRIBUTE TO RYAN BECKER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to a firefighter who has gone out of his way to serve his country. Ryan Becker, a firefighter from Vail, Colorado, left the comforts of home recently to assist in the search for wreckage of the space shuttle *Columbia*.

Ryan's experience and training fighting wildland fires gave him exactly the kind of expertise NASA needed. So Ryan volunteered to help, and NASA supplied him and other members of his 18-person team with a map and put them to work in East Texas. The work wasn't always easy and at times was downright dangerous. Ryan walked through briar patches that tore his clothes and scratched his body, waded through muddy swamps and creeks, and dodged poisonous water moccasins and copperhead snakes; all in an effort to find a clue that might help investigators understand this tragic accident.

Yet despite the difficulties, Ryan and his teammates worked shifts up to 12-hours long, walked about eight miles a day, and covered many acres of territory. Their findings included debris that ranged in size from a four feet by six feet piece of the bulkhead to tiny chunks of about a quarter inch.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of Ryan's contributions to our Space Shuttle program. This outstanding individual sacrificed in order to ensure that a calamity like the *Columbia* disaster will never happen again. I am honored to tell Ryan's story before this body of Congress today, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. REBECCA SUE SPEARS

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a remarkable woman on the occasion of a very special anniversary. In 1993, Mrs. Rebecca Sue Spears, of Fayetteville, Georgia, was diagnosed with breast cancer. This year marks the tenth anniversary of Mrs. Spears being "cancer free."

Today, a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer approximately every 2 minutes. Thanks to the efforts of people like Mrs. Spears, we are making great strides to eradicate this devastating disease. As a breast cancer survivor, Mrs. Spears continues to raise money and awareness to fight breast cancer and is a true servant leader.

In 2002, at the age of 59, Mrs. Spears participated in the Avon 3-Day Breast Cancer